

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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(916) 657-2941



July 22, 1993

All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County MEDS Coordinators
All County MEDS Security Coordinators

Letter No.: 93-48

DISTRICT ATTORNEY FAMILY SUPPORT DIVISIONS ACCESS TO MEDS

At the request of the State Department of Social Services (SDSS) the State Department of Health Services (SDHS) has approved Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) access for the counties District Attorney Family Support Divisions (FSD) with the implementation of the SDSS Automated District Attorney Matching (ADAM) Systems. The process will provide FSD with terminal access to the MEDS and to the Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS), enhancing the enforcement of child abuse and/or child and spousal support orders. It is essential that the FSD understands that MEDS is to be used only to assist in the enforcement of child abuse and/or child and spousal support orders and that all MEDS inquiry screens and print outs are confidential.

A copy of ACWDL No. 92-66, Confidentiality Policies Governing Medi-Cal and MEDS is enclosed for the FSDs confidentiality guidance. It is requested that the MEDS coordinator in each county pass a copy of this letter to the FSD staff in your county.

The authority to release child/spousal support information to the FSDs is provided by:

- SDSS Manual of Policies and procedure, Division 48.
- Confidential information shall be released only under the conditions specified and as provided in Welfare and Institutions Code (W&I) Section 10850.
- Further guidance is provided by W&I Section 11478 requiring all state, county, and local agencies to cooperate in the enforcement of any child support obligation, and spousal support orders to the extent required under the state plan under W&I Section 11475.2, and the location of parents who have abandoned, deserted, abducted children, irrespective of whether such children are, or are not receiving aid under the AFDC program, to the extent consistent with federal law.
- W&I Section 14100.2, when read in conjunction with Section 11478 can be construed to permit child support enforcement (IV-D) officials access to Medi-Cal case files and information.
- 22 California Administrative Code Section 50111, incorporates by reference to the regulations adopted by the SDSS MPP Section 19-004.311 and specifically authorizes disclosure of information for purposes of child support enforcement and the location of families.

In order to provide for protection of MEDS Network confidentiality and to ease the workload this requirement will place on the county MEDS Coordinators, with the approval of SDHS, SDSS has appointed a

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ADAM/MEDS Coordinator at SDSS to process FSD requests for MEDS/IEVS access. The SDSS MEDS Coordinator is Nancy O'Brien at (916) 445-0638 and may be reached via Emc2/TAO user ID: DSSSECUR.

The SDSS MEDS Coordinator will assign unique county passwords for the FSDs so that the County MEDS Coordinator will be able to distinguish the ADAM passwords from other county assigned passwords.

Wherever possible, the MEDS access for FSD will be provided on computers already available in the county. If additional equipment is required your county may have to expend local assistance funds for charges not covered under the contract. State funds have been budgeted for the 1993/94 fiscal year (FY) to reimburse all county local assistance expenditures.

As outlined in SDHS ACWDL E-Mail #93079, dated June 3, 1993, your FSDs, with the assistance of the county MEDS Coordinator, should contact Mr. Walt Otani of the SDHS at (916) 657-2882 with your implementation needs as soon as possible. SDSS sent all county FSDs a letter on ADAM implementation April 16, 1993.

If you should have any questions, please contact Mr. Al Brinsfield of my staff at (916) 657-0837.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosure

AB:sgf